

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND DIVISION



EMPLOYMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Vocational Rehabilitation is a State-Federal partnership program that provides services to help people with physical or mental impairments to attain successful employment outcomes.

ELIGIBILITY

(Within 60 days of application)

is determined by:

- (1) Presence of a mental or physical impairment which for such individual constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment, and
- (2) requires VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment.

Eligibility is determined without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin, or disabling condition.

STEPS IN VR

1 Your counselor will make every effort to involve you as an active participant in your rehabilitation program, including making meaningful and informed choices about the selection of your vocational goal and the services you receive.

2 Together, you and the counselor will develop a plan which identifies the job goal, services, and resources required for you to reach your job goal.

3 The counselor will assist you with all necessary services including preparing for a job and finding one.

4 When you are finally employed, the counselor will follow your progress to assure that you are doing well and need no further help from us.

SERVICES

Services required to meet your individual needs, including those provided by other agencies to help you get a job, may include the following:

ASSESSMENT

Medical, psychological, and vocational, to determine eligibility and VR services needed to achieve an employment outcome

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELING & GUIDANCE

REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Including assistive devices and services

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

JOB PLACEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP

Services available to clients who satisfy the Division's comparable benefits or personal resources requirements are:

PERSONAL ATTENDANT SERVICES

To meet daily living needs to enable the individual to attain and maintain a job

READER SERVICES

For the blind

INTERPRETER SERVICES

For the deaf

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF PHYSICAL/MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS

VOCATIONAL & OTHER TRAINING

Including institutions of higher education

TRANSPORTATION

In connection with any major VR services

MAINTENANCE

In excess of normal expenses that are made necessary by participation in the VR program

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, TOOLS, & EQUIPMENT

OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES

If you have a disability that keeps you from working, contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation Office.

Services for the Blind Branch

1901 Bachelot Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

Ph: 586-5268 (V/TT)

Oahu Branch

600 Kapiolani Blvd., #304

Honolulu, HI 96813

Ph: 586-5167 (VTT)

Kauai Branch

3060 Eiwa St., #304

Lihue, HI 96766-1877

Ph: 274-3333 (V/TT)

Maui Branch

54 So. High St., #309

Wailuku, HI 96793

Ph: 984-8350 (V/TT)

Molokai Field Office

P.O. Box 1068

Kaunakakai, HI 96648

Ph: 553-3621 (V/TT)

Hawaii Branch

75 Aupuni Street

Hilo, HI 96720

Ph: 974-6444 (V/TT)

Kona Field Office

P.O. Box 459

Captain Cook, HI 96704

Ph: 323-1515 (V/TT)

MEDIATION & FAIR HEARING

If you have a complaint or disagreement about any of our actions or decisions or feel that you have been discriminated against, you have certain rights and recourses available to you. Ask your counselor or anyone else in the Division about them.

You may also obtain help from the Client Assistance Program (CAP) of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center to work out problems that arise regarding our services and your rights and responsibilities.

Call one of our offices and request our brochure entitled, "Your Right to Due Process" for more specific information and telephone numbers.

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND PROGRAM

Ho'opono, the Services for the Blind Branch, provides comprehensive services on Oahu and specialized services to neighbor island clients to meet the varied needs of persons who are blind, both deaf and blind, or visually impaired. Services include vocational rehabilitation and adjustment to blindness. These services include training, evaluation and provision of optical devices through its Low Vision Clinic, and employment opportunities in the Vending Program and the Ho'opono Workshop. Ho'opono also conducts public education and prevention of blindness activities and maintains a statewide Blind Registry.

Ho'opono
1901 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Ph: 586-5268 (V/TT)

DISABILITY DETERMINATION PROGRAM

The Disability Determination Program determines disability for two Federal programs: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) authorized by Title II of the Social Security Act, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) authorized by Title XVI of the Act.

The SSDI program provides benefits to insured disabled workers and their families based on workers' employment and earnings history. The SSI program assists financially needy aged, blind, and disabled individuals, including those with no recent employment experience. Claimants may also be eligible for benefits under both programs.

Disability for both programs is defined as the inability to engage in substantial gainful activity due to a medically determinable physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months, or result in death. In the SSI program, a child is considered to be disabled if he or she has any medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) of comparable severity to one which would disable an adult and which meets the duration requirement.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability is prohibited. For help with discrimination problems, contact the DHS Civil Rights Compliance Officer, 586-4955 (V/TT), P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809. You may also file directly with the Civil Rights Office, 50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102, Phone (415) 556-7000 or (415) 556-6806 (TT)

CONFIDENTIALITY

Personal information will be needed in order to determine your eligibility for services and for the proper provision of services according to your individual needs. Such information is considered confidential and is shared only with others as indicated below. You may decide not to share personal information but that might affect your eligibility.

Information may be released to persons authorized by you, or your representative with your informed written consent.

Information may be released without your written consent in response to investigations in connection with law enforcement, fraud, or abuse (except where expressly prohibited by Federal or State laws or regulation), in response to judicial order, and in instances where there is a threat to your health and safety, or to the health and safety of others.

Information may be released without written consent for audit, program evaluation, and research only for purposes connected with the administration of the VR program.

Information may also be routinely released without your written informed consent to physicians, psychologists, therapists, nurses, clinics, hospitals, public agencies, schools, and other training institutions or programs, employers, and other private, non-profit agencies serving persons with disabilities for purposes of administering your VR program. Otherwise, information will be held as confidential and not released for any other purposes without your informed written consent.

AUTHORITY: Hawaii Revised Statutes

92E, 4 & 5, §347-4, 348-3, 348-6, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and amendments.



**Department of Human Services
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND SERVICES
FOR THE BLIND DIVISION
P.O. BOX 339, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**